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August 25, 2004

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Art Unit 2823

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re:

U.S. Utility Patent Application

Application No. 10/750,834; Filed: January 5, 2004

High Density Metal Capacitor Using Via Etch Stopping Layer as

Field Dielectric in Dual-Damascence Interconnect Process

Inventor:

Liming Tsau

Our Ref:

1875.0230001

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- Preliminary Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.115 attaching eight (8) sheets of 1. Formal Drawings (Figures 16A-16I, 17A-17I, 18A-18I and 19A-19I); and
- 2. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox p.l.l.c.

Jason D. Eisenberg Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 43,447



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Liming Tsau

Appl. No.: 10/750,834

Filed: January 5, 2004

For: High Density Metal Capacitor

Using Via Etch Stopping Layer as Field Dielectric in Dual-

Damascence Interconnect Process

Confirmation No.: 2507

Art Unit: 2823

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Atty. Docket: 1875.0230001

Preliminary Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.115

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In advance of prosecution, Applicant submits the following amendments and remarks. This Preliminary Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) Each section begins on a separate sheet;
- (B) Starting on a separate sheet, amendments to the specification by presenting replacement paragraphs marked up to show changes made;
- (C) Starting on a separate sheet, a complete listing of all of the claims:
 - in ascending order;
 - with status identifiers; and
 - with markings in the currently amended claims;
- (D) Starting on a separate sheet, the Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.